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ABSTRACT

Having a garden in the classroom offers students a chance to explore plant life cycles, and provides a hands-on context for teaching a wide variety of basic subject area skills in science, mathematics, social studies, language arts, health, and fine arts. This teacher guide is designed to help teachers in grades K-8 establish and maintain a garden in their classroom. The information is presented in eight chapters. Chapter 1 helps the teacher plan the garden's role in the classroom. Chapters 2-6 give the teacher the information necessary to cultivate an indoor garden. Topics include setting up, choosing fluorescent tubes and containers, planting and transplanting, maintaining a healthy environment, controlling pests, and preparing the garden for a long vacation. The information provides additional insights into developing curriculum activities, lessons, and experiments. Chapter 7 provides information on troubleshooting and cleaning and storing equipment. Chapter 8 describes ways to build on the enthusiasm that an indoor school gardening program generates, both in school and in the community. Appendices contain an indoor gardening Growers Guide, reproducible activity worksheets, a list of necessary yearly supplies, instructions to build a grow lab, and an annotated reference section that lists books, audiovisual materials, organizational resources, and suppliers of gardening equipment and seeds. (MDH)

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